

THE LIBERATOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the American Negro.

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Mayor Alexander's Record one of Ingratitude to the Negroes

In spite of the fact: that but for the Negro vote, Mayor Alexander would years ago, have been consigned to political perdition, the Negroes' rights have been less respected and they have received more rebuffs during his (Mayor Alexander's administration) than in any administration in the city's history. As far as the Negroes' rights are concerned the present administration has been the most disastrous and is becoming more so each day.

Negro Saves Him From Political Death.

During the year 1904 the machine then in control of the Republican party decided to politically kill Mr. Alexander who was then a member of the Board of Supervisors and candidate for renomination. In the convention of that summer, he was hit by the steam rollers and ruthlessly crushed.

This treatment aroused the sympathy of his friends who induced him to run independently. The editor of this journal who undertook the task in 1896 of liberating the Negroes from corrupt machine influences, took up the mayor's fight. The independent sentiment that *The Liberator* had created among the colored citizens gave Mr. Alexander the independent colored vote.

In *The Liberator* of Oct. 1904, appeared the following editorial which was read by seventy five per cent of the colored voters:

MR. ALEXANDER'S POSITION.

"The position of Mr. Alexander is one that every good citizen can well endorse. He is a temperance man, not a Prohibitionist. On the saloon question he favors local option—that is, if the people

of a locality want a saloon just let them have it. But if they don't want a saloon, no licence should be granted. The fight of the Los Angeles Lighting Company upon him grew out of his vote to give the Lowe Gas Company a franchise which means cheaper gas to the people by letting in a competing company. Mr. Alexander stands for honesty and fair play. He is patriotic and safe."

In the same edition the following is the report of a mass meeting held in the interest of the mayor's candidacy. The editor of this journal with a number of gentlemen got up the meeting:

"COLORED VOTERS ENDORSE ALEXANDER FOR SUPERVISOR.

A TRIBUTE PAID TO MAYOR SNYDER

MR. ALEXANDER ENDORSED

At a large, enthusiastic meeting of the representative colored voters held at Scott's Hall, Mr. Alexander, non-partisan candidate to succeed himself as member of the Board of Supervisors, was endorsed. The meeting was made up of all trades, ministers of the gospel, laymen, business and professional men, brick layers, plasterers, hod carriers, painters, paper-hangers, politicians and representatives of every honorable walk of life.

The ablest speech of the evening was delivered by Mr. Henry Burdette in defense of Mr. Lauder's candidacy. Mr. Burdette, like his great namesake, is indeed an orator, but his friend and candidate, the creature of the machine, had no show in that meeting held, as it was, to promote the interest of good government. He was followed by the president, who discussed the issues involved in the contest. After the vote was taken Mr. Alexander was sent for and presented to the meeting by a committee. He made a modest, straightforward speech. Of Mr. Alexander's election there is not the least doubt.

Mr. Burdette paid a splendid tribute to Mayor Snyder for his kindness and friendship for the colored citizens.

That endorsement made the defeat of Mr. Lauder certain, as it was known that he could not win without the solid negro vote. The effect of that endorsement was to bring into the Alexander camp every undecided white voter. He had a plurality of 500, just about the size of the Negro vote that left the machine.

In 1908 Mr. Alexander fell into a trap set for him by the machine and was sent to private life.

Being resurrected from his political grave to run as Recall candidate against Mayor Harper, the colored voters again went to his rescue. The Negro vote again gave him the victory.

In 1909 the machine, driven to desperation, nominated George A. Smith to run against the Mayor. Again the colored voters held the balance of power and the machine fight for that vote became bitter.

As president of the Independent Political League, a Negro organization, the editor of this journal called a meeting of that body and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Dear Sir:—

Your attention is respectfully called to the fact that it is necessary for you to cast your ballot on Tuesday, December 7th, next for those candidates who will give to Los Angeles a clean well governed City, for that is our hope in making advancement as a race; it throws around our homes the greatest amount of protection and enables our children to be in a municipality where their welfare is carefully considered.

We, therefore, earnestly call upon you to seriously consider how you will cast your vote and in doing so, will be guided by the following resolutions, viz:

WHEREAS, it is our belief that the best asset that a city can have is a reputation of being well governed and

WHEREAS, we, as Negro voters find it to the best interest of our race to live in cities with a clean municipal government, that mob rule, riot and race disturbances are things unheard of in cities where the law is properly enforced, and

WHEREAS, we believe that those candidates nominated at the recent primary election through the efforts of the Good Government Organization will give Los Angeles an honest, economical and efficient government,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Negro Independent Political League of Los Angeles, appeal to all voters of our race to use their influence for good government in the coming campaign, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we endorse the candidates named by the Good Government Organization and headed by George Alexander for mayor and that we will use our efforts and influence to bring about their election and make of Los Angeles a city whose municipal officers are not controlled by a corporation machine subject to influences that stand for vice and graft.

J. L. EDMONDS, President
E. F. HENDERSON, sec.

J. L. Edmonds and G. Walter Snell were appointed by the League as a committee to visit the colored ministers meeting and secure if possible their endorsement of the resolutions.

They were endorsed by Revs. J. T. Hill, C. H. Anderson, J. D. Gordon, L. M. Hagood, E. F. Henderson and C. C. Flint and A. J. Jones, business men. Thus endorsed 10,000 copies were printed

and distributed among the colored voters and the campaign was relentlessly pressed both night and day till victory was won.

The Mayor's "Cold Shoulder."

No sooner had the mayor found himself safely in office than he began in rustic parlance to turn his "cold shoulder" to his colored supporters. He became irreproachable. Negroes holding responsible positions in the city were gradually let out. All of the teams owned by Negroes were taken off the street, the Negroes were all let out of the parks save one. All appeals made to the mayor were swept aside by the statement that he was powerless or that he was handicapped by race prejudice. This favorite subterfuge, the creature of the imagination of Good Government officials, has been over-worked by the present administration as an excuse for denying the Negroes opportunities they enjoyed before they put the mayor in office.

Refuses Negro Representation

The thirst for money has made many of the operators of the picture shows so depraved that a censor board has been created by the city council to censor their pictures to keep them from corrupting the morals of little boys and girls by exhibiting lewd pictures. These crime breeding shows are all run by white men. A favorite practice among these propagators of vice is the exhibition of brutal lynching scenes where Negroes are victims. In spite of the immoral effect that these scenes must have upon the minds of children, the white people offered no protest against these exhibitions. Burning a Negro at the stake was exhibited without hinderance till protested against by Negroes.

To prevent the recurrence of these appeals to race prejudice the mayor was asked to appoint a colored man on the Censor Commission, so as to protect the city's

youths from such outrages. As the white people had offered no protest against these exhibitions in the past there was ample reason for the request of the colored citizens for representation on the commission. As there is no salary attached to the office, it was thought the appointment would be made without hesitation as right was also on the side of the request. It was turned down—"race prejudice" was given as the reason. The mayor said, if he appointed a Negro on that commission the other members would resign. And yet, he said the commission was composed of broad, capable, justice-loving persons among whom is a minister of the gospel. In the name of high Heaven what kind of gospel does that minister preach? Could such a commission be intrusted with the rights of anybody? Are these persons members of any church? From whence came they? It is the policy of the Good Government officials to appoint the Negro to no position that carries with it a recognition of manhood. Is there any difference in the count of the votes cast for him by Negroes than those cast by white men?

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Miss Green of Waco, Texas is stopping at 1191 West 36th Place.

A correction:—In last week's edition it was stated that Attorney Afu McDowell was graduated, standing third: the fact is, he graduated at the head of his class.

House concerts were given for the benefit of Wesley Chapel at the homes of Mrs. C. M. Mitchell, Mrs. Quick and Mrs. Maud Battson.

The funeral services of Mrs. Wolfork were held at Wesley Chapel on the 5th, Rev. E. W. Kenchin officiated. A. J. Roberts & Sons, funeral director had charge.

Mrs. J. W. Williams of 1220 Birch street and Miss Pearl Callette of 828 Hawthorne street were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Edmonds last week.

Mr. Oliver McGruder, 1124 Kingsley Drive is seriously ill.

Great \$5.00 Rally AT WESLEY CHAPEL

The big \$5 rally at Wesley Chapel M. E. Church, corner 8th and San Julian streets, will take place next Sunday, March the 10th. In the afternoon at 3 o'clock the ministers and choirs of sister churches will take part in a great platform meeting and rally. Everybody is very cordially invited.

Wesley is putting forth a mighty effort to reduce her debt. Go out and help her.

Mrs. William Glenn has been seriously ill for several days.

Mrs. A. M. Brown is rapidly recovering from a protracted illness.

Mr. Morgan T. White who was taken suddenly ill last week recovered sufficiently to be out.

Mrs. Stella Middlebrooks has opened a restaurant, 204 Utah avenue, Santa Monica. The place is neat and has a business-like appearance.

The damage suit against the L. A. Van and Storage Co. was decided in favor of the Company. One of the company's teams injured a horse belonging to the plaintiff. The damages asked were considered excessive so judgement was rendered in favor of Mr. R. H. Dunston, president of the company.

Attorneys Dardin and Ceruti represented the company.

The Booker T. Washington Art Club held an important meeting at the residence of Mrs. N. W. Cobb, 1547 West 36th street.

Those present were: Madames M. A. Toney, E. Clements, F. Ross, Leo, Bell, Payne, Johnson, Jones, Ogletree, C. Jones, Banks, Coffin, King, C. Krews and Misses S. Davis, Dorena Smith, Moore, Johnson and Mrs. Wise.

The visitors were so well pleased that they became members of the club. After partaking of refreshments the club adjourned to meet at the home of Mrs. Wise on Liota street.

Mrs. King and Miss Welch entertained Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Williams of Chicago last Friday at the Sunflower cafeteria, 1414 East 9th street.

Mr. L. A. Watson, one of our enterprising young business men and prominent Pythian will leave Saturday for Oakland to look after matters connected with that order.

Miss Myrtle Anderson of Hobart Boulevard is recovering from a severe illness. This news is pleasing to her friends.

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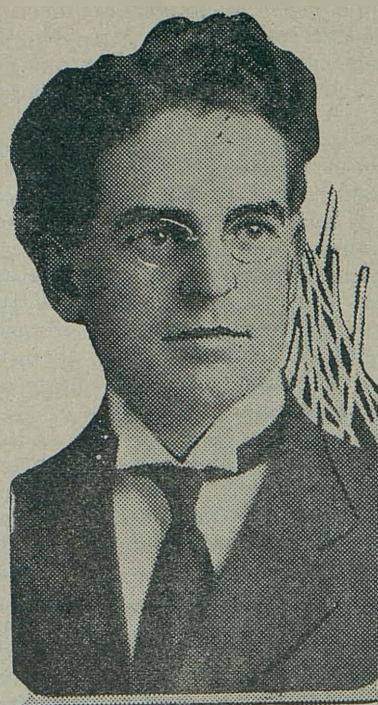
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The Williams Jubilee Singers known and admired the world over will sing at the Shrine Auditorium Tuesday evening March 26th. They will sing one night only; don't fail to hear them. The proceeds of that great concert will go to the Y. M. C. A. everybody turn out and aid this worthy institution.



Mr. L. A. Handley

WOULD LIFT FROM WORK- INGMEN'S BACKS \$62,000 IN TAXATION.

HANDLEY TALKS AT VENICE

In Addressing Venitians He Criticises the Multiplicity of Los Angeles, Laws—Much Building.

Mr. Handley said the trouble with a large city like Los Angeles was that only a small fraction of the people could possibly know anything about the 24,000 city ordinances which they are expected to live up to. He expressed himself forcibly in opposition to the collection annually in that city of \$22,000 from the expressmen who make their living by carrying the trunks of visitors. He likewise opposed the collection of \$40,000 in license each year from the fruit and vegetable peddlers. He was

not in favor of the license tax exacted from insurance agents and for those following other vocations. He believed the best government was that which came direct from the people.

Mr. Roberts Thrown Overboard Again.

The refusal of the mayor to appoint Mr. F. M. Roberts on the Censor Board may cause him to do a little thinking. He can perhaps see just how little the support he gave the Good Government ticket last fall is appreciated. A man who supports another man for office, because the said man went to war 50 years ago will nine times out of ten forfeit that man's serious consideration. Another thing, a young man must be on the look out, and not allow his friends to put him up just to be knocked down or to secure for themselves a little cheap notoriety. Mr. Roberts is a young man with a bright future and should not mar it by allowing people to make him a candidate for everything that comes along and head of every organization just to see him beaten. This applies with equal force to every young man.

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THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON ART CLUB

The Second Semi-Annual exhibition of the Booker T. Washington Art Club was held at the Westminster Presbyterian church on the 29th of February. On that occasion all former exhibitions were eclipsed: beautifully embroidered table covers, center pieces, pillow covers, gowns, baby coats, aprons, towels, handkerchiefs and other articles too numerous to mention. The space occupied by the exhibit was twice that occupied six months ago, and everything showed improvement both in taste and finish.

One of the attractions that challenged the admiration of all visitors was a splendid solid oak office desk made by Mr. John Perry, a student of the Manual Arts school. This finely finished piece of furniture would lend grace to most any office. Mr. Perry is the director of a juvenile orchestra which treated the audience with a selection, the music of which was composed by Mr. Perry.

Besides her needlework, Mrs. M. A. Toney exhibited a copy of

the Vicksburg, Mississippi Daily Citizen published July 2nd, 1863, two days before that city with 30,000 Confederate soldiers, 1,500 of whom wore the title of general, surrendered to General Grant. These papers printed on wall paper, fell into the hands of union soldiers and were distributed among them and kept as souvenirs. Mr. Toney was a drummer-boy and witnessed some of the bloodiest battles of the war.

To better preserve the paper Mrs. Toney had it enclosed in a neat frame with a glass front. It is worth reading. Its views of the Yankies and the north are somewhat vitriolic. It tells of flour at \$5 a pound and molasses at \$10 per gallon.

Among the many visitors at the exhibition were: Mr. Washington Reed of Wellston, St. Louis Co., Missouri, a veteran of the civil war; Capt. and Mrs. F. H. Crumbly—Capt. Crumbly is a veteran of the Spanish American war—Mrs. L. E. Hudson, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Frank Ross.

Another young man of promise in the Presbyterian church is Mr.

Dewey L. Johnson, president of the Junior Christian Endeavor. There are 50 members in his society.

Rev. N. W. Cobb and Mr. F. W. Alexander are influential members of the Art Club.

The following are the officers: Mrs. O. Johnson, president; Mrs. J. W. Payne, vice-president; Mrs. R. C. Bell, corr. secretary; Mrs. M. A. Toney, treasurer; Mrs. S. Davis, financial secretary; Mrs. Z. Johnson, recording secretary; The work these ladies are doing while increasing the dexterity of the hand, develops the finer sense and nobler side of the human character. Already the whole community feels the effects of the Club's presence. Rev. Holman the pastor, deserves congratulation for the splendid community of which his church is the social center.

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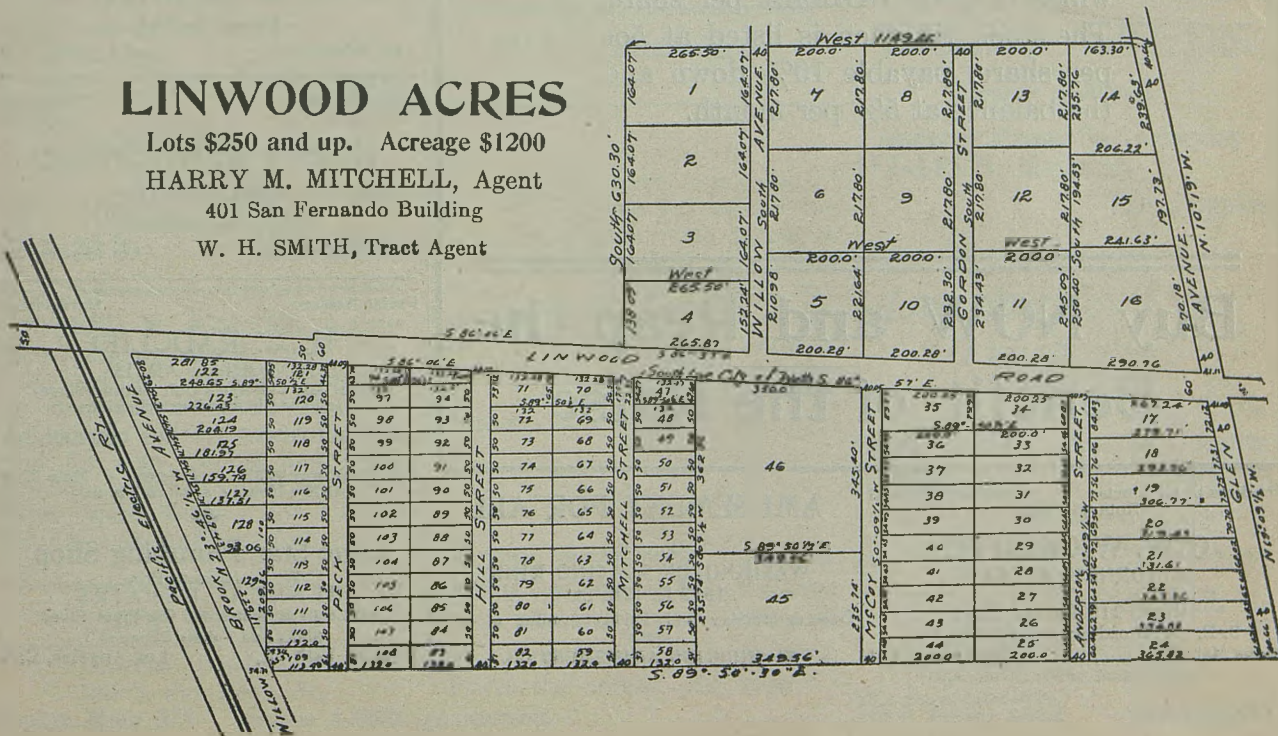
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